



US005536170A

United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,536,170****Murphy**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 16, 1996**

[54] **INTERCHANGEABLE SYMBOLIC
LANGUAGE OVERLAY SYSTEM FOR PUSH
BUTTON OPERATED DEVICE**

Primary Examiner—Gene Mancene
Assistant Examiner—Jeffrey A. Smith
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Daniel J. Bourque; Kevin J. Carroll

[76] **Inventor:** **Kevin C. Murphy**, 97 Forrest St.,
Plaistow, N.H. 03865

[57] **ABSTRACT**

[21] **Appl. No.:** **290,601**

[22] **Filed:** **Aug. 15, 1994**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 74,795, Jun. 10, 1993, Pat. No. 5,391,078.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G09B 21/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **434/113; 434/227**

[58] **Field of Search** 434/112, 113,
434/227, 118, 219; 150/165

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

1,823,130	9/1931	Smith	434/227 X
3,776,088	12/1973	Jones	84/317
5,096,317	3/1992	Phillippe	434/227 X
5,391,078	2/1995	Murphy	434/113

A tactile recognition language overlay system includes a piece of pliable material for covering a pressure sensitive or push button operated device, such as a keyboard or control panel. The piece of pliable material includes depressible portions which move below the piece of pliable material to contact detection regions disposed on the pressure sensitive device, such as keys on a keyboard. Each depressible portion has an engaging region which is adapted to engage a tactile recognition language block having at least a tactily recognizable character, such as a Braille character. The tactile recognition language blocks may also include visual indicia. The depressible portions and engaging regions are spaced and oriented in a predetermined pattern corresponding to detection regions on the pressure sensitive device. A plurality of tactile recognition language blocks may be selectably and removably engaged with the engaging regions to form an interchangeable combination of tactily recognizable characters which overlay and correspond to the pressure sensitive device.

23 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

